

Wiesbaden Opens Multimillion Dollar Facilities

WIESBADEN, Germany -- The Installation Management Agency Europe has opened millions of dollars worth of new fitness and child development facilities at its Wiesbaden garrison. A ribbon-cutting ceremony marked the official openings of a \$19.5 million Wiesbaden Army Airfield Fitness Center and a \$6 million Child Development Center-School-Age Service facility.

The new 85,000-square-foot, two-level, air conditioned fitness and sports facility includes a three-lane elevated running track, dual-use basketball court and auditorium, outdoor rock climbing wall and male and female saunas.

The state-of-the art child care facility can provide care for 300 children from infants to fifth grade. USAG Wiesbaden commander Lt. Col. Timothy Wolff noted that before the facility opened, his community had 120 children on the waiting list for child care. Now, said Wulff, “not only has the waiting list disappeared, but we have additional slots available for future child care needs.”

Although the physical facilities at the child care center are second to none, Army officials say the “human element” is what makes the facility special.

According to Lt. Col. James Summers, deputy commander of the Army Corps of Engineers in Europe, “The (project’s) engineers and designers took safety to the highest regard, ensuring a safe and protected environment for the children learning and playing here. The monitoring system is exceptional, with video monitoring throughout the entire facility.”

Katherine Vahrenkamp, SAS training and program specialist, said the center is, “a wonderful boost to an employee’s morale.” The staff is eager to come to work, to work with the children and to grow professionally.”



According to Russell B. Hall, IMA Europe Region Director, the new facilities support the future of the Army in Europe. “This building truly represents a vision that says we will transform in Europe to meet the needs of the Army. They were planned, will support that transformation.”

(Story provided by Susan Huseman, USAG Hessen Public Affairs Office)